have been initiated in the capital and money markets to induce industrial growth.

Packing of cement in paper bags

953. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take immediate steps to allow packing of cement in paper bags instead of jute packing in the consumers interests;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Under the Jute Packing Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, 50% of cement produced has to be packed in Jute Bags. This Act is being administered by the Ministry of Textiles.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Promotion of industries in backward areas of Maharashtra

954. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present industrial policy to promote industries in backward areas of the country, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(b) the special incentives offered to attract entrepreneurs in backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) With the introduction of the New Industrial Policy and liberalisation of economy, the responsibility of Government of India is proactive and supplemental to the efforts made by the State Governments in industrialisation. The Government of India has got certain schemes for development of backward areas which include (I) Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme (II) Growth Centre Scheme and (III) Transport Subsidy Scheme. In addition, there are certain tax incentives given for setting up infrastructure industries and for setting up industries in specified backward areas.

Japanese FDI in India

955. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned 'Row over MUL may hit Japanese FDI' which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 12th February, 1997; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has been drawn to this news item.

(b) Investment from Japan to India has witnessed an increasing trend in as much as it has risen from a level of Rs. 527.1 million in 1991 to Rs. 14883.5 million in 1996, which is nearly 4.5% of the total investment approvals accorded for all countries. It is expected that this fising trend will continue. As far as MUL is concerned, while Government is not considering any change now in the existing equity structure of MUL or disinvestment of its shares in favour of Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC), MUL has already decided to go in for expansion with the consent of its Board of Directors.

Closure of Loss making PSUs

956. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close down some of the loss making public sector units;

(b) whether Government have not ascertainsd the reasons for these PSUs becoming sick or loss making prior to the above decision;

(c) whether it is a fact that in some of the cases the BIFR also did not ask the appointed Operating Agency to furnish the revival scheme and it went ahead to decide the issue of closure unilaterally;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(e) the further action proposed to be taken in this regard?